

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



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## Orbital Picks Virginia for Taurus II

Orbital Sciences Corporation has confirmed its selection of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS), located at Wallops Island as its base of operations for the company's new Taurus II rocket.

The first mission of the Taurus II rocket is scheduled for late 2010. It will be the launch vehicle for a joint NASA and Orbital cargo delivery demonstration mission to the International Space Station.

If NASA selects Orbital for operational cargo missions to the ISS later this year, those missions would also originate from MARS, beginning in 2011.

"NASA's Wallops Flight Facility has launched more than 15,000 rockets from Wallops Island since its founding in 1945," said Virginia Governor Tim Kaine. "The facility helps to meet the needs of the United States aerospace technology interests and science research and I

congratulate Orbital Science Corporation on this significant contract to launch the new Taurus II."

The Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority (VCSFA) oversees the Old Dominion University-affiliated Virginia Space Flight Center at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility.

The VCSFA was created in 1995 to disseminate knowledge pertaining to scientific and technological research and development among public and private entities including, but not limited to, knowledge in the area of commercial space flight, and to promote industrial and economic development. A Board of Directors, composed of 12 members, manages the Authority.

"We appreciate the significant contributions that the Commonwealth of Virginia, MARS and other interested parties are making to

improve the Wallops space launch infrastructure. These improvements will allow Taurus II launches and resupply flights to the International Space Station to be conducted from the Eastern Shore," stated Dr. Antonio Elias, Orbital's Executive Vice President and General Manager of its Advanced Programs Group.

"Our team looks forward to becoming a catalyst for growth in the local economy as our operations take shape over the next several years," said Elias.

Orbital will invest approximately \$45 million in Virginia to assemble, test and launch the Taurus II space launch vehicle.

The rocket program will also create approximately 125 new jobs in the state, which will be based both at Orbital's Dulles headquarters and at the Wallops Island launch site.



Wallops Island launch site

NASA

Dear Wallops Folks,

As many of you know, Orbital Sciences Corp. has announced the selection of WFF and MARS as the launch site for their new Taurus II rocket. One of the factors in the Orbital decision was the performance of our employees. Since 1993, Orbital has been supported by us in launching both Pegasus and Minotaur rockets. In addition, Orbital was impressed with the efforts by Wallops personnel in the early Taurus II support documents and meetings. The effort to bring the Taurus II to Wallops was a monumental effort by Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport/Virginia Commercial Spaceflight Authority, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state of Maryland, and officials from both states from the local level to members of Congress. I congratulate everyone that has supported these efforts.

Senator Mikulski was happy; she said, "This is the biggest thing to hit the Eastern Shore since Captain John Smith's anchor!" Cool!

Now the light is on us and it's our time to shine. We will be on a fast-paced schedule in supporting Orbital. First launch is scheduled for 2010.

Congratulations to you all!  
John Campbell

## Awards and New Officers for Toastmasters

The Wallops Debadeavon Toastmasters Club held their awards ceremony and new officer installation on June 4. Michael Hooks received Competent Communicator and Competent Leader awards; Pat Dworske received her Advanced Communicator, Silver, and Advanced Leader, Bronze, awards; and Freda Johnson received the Competent Leader Award.



*Sharone Corbin*

New officers for 2008-2009 are Freda Johnson, President; (above), Barbara Justis, VP Education; Michael Hooks, VP Membership; John Brinton, VP Public Relations; Dave Wilcox, Secretary; A.J. Kellam, Treasurer; and Gael Rapp, Sergeant-at-Arms.

## On the Road

Brenda Harrie, NASA Range and Mission Management Office; Nancy Stevens, NASA Advanced Projects Office; Betty Flowers and Rebecca Powell, NASA Public Affairs Office, staffed an exhibit at the Ocean City (Md) Air Show on June 10 and 11.

## Guidance on Interactions with Presidential Campaigns

In this presidential election season it is important to remember that federal employees working in their official capacity should be mindful of the way they interact with political campaigns.

Information provided to any presidential campaign should be handled in the same manner as inquiries from the general public.

Presidential campaign requests for anything other than information readily available to the public should be reported to and approved in advance by the NASA General Counsel before being answered.

## John Doyle Receives Quarterly Safety Award



*Rich Rogers*

On June 13, Wallops Deputy Director, Craig Purdy, (left), and Shane Dover, Aviation Safety Officer/Pilot (right) presented the quarterly Aviation Safety Award to John Doyle (center) of AIRTEC for outstanding attention to detail and safety awareness during the recent P3 ARCTAS mission to Alaska.

Doyle is the flight engineer and crew chief for NASA's P3 aircraft. While performing a post-flight inspection of the Cloud Absorption Radiometer radome installed on the P3 aircraft, Doyle observed a small crack developing in the upper radome hinge assembly. He immediately notified Maintenance Control and Airworthiness Review Board members. The component was removed and repaired resulting in a safe, on-time mission deployment.

## Wallops Aerobics Club ZUMBA Fitness

Tuesdays  
4:45 – 5:45 p.m.  
In the Gym, Bldg.  
D-10



**Zumba is a fitness program inspired by Latin dance. For further information contact Linda Wiles at x1173.**

## Smithsonian Folklife Festival

*NASA: Fifty Years and Beyond* will showcase the role that the men and women of NASA have played in broadening the horizons of American science and culture, as well as the role that they will continue to play in helping to shape the future.

NASA employees and contractors are encouraged to come out and support the NASA program at the Festival on June 25-29 and July 2-6, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Folklife Festival, free to the public, is an international exposition of living cultural heritage annually produced outdoors on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

For more information, visit <http://www.folklife.si.edu/> or call Michelle Jones at x66-8102.

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